

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1-15 (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) An industrial controller comprising a plurality of devices, for use in controlling a system including a plurality of components, the controller comprising:

a) a plurality of technology objects corresponding to the components, at least one technology object of the plurality of technology objects comprising:

a technological functionality independent of the plurality of devices of the industrial controller and a device functionality dependent on at least one of the plurality of devices, wherein the technological functionality does not depend on the device functionality, and

at least one command that in part characterizes the at least one technology object and determines behavior of the at least one technology object;

b) control means independent of the controlled components; and

bc) component control means relating to the controlled components for supplementing the control means, the component control means implemented using a the at least one plurality of technology objects corresponding to the components object, the at least one technology objects object distributable on the plurality of devices and including a capability to execute commands that control the devices.

17. (previously presented) An industrial controller according to claim 16, further comprising automatically generated communication links between at least two of the technology objects.

18. (previously presented) An industrial controller according to claim 17, wherein technology objects comprise attributes taken into account in the generation of the communications links.

19. (previously presented) An industrial controller according to claim 16, wherein technology objects are distributable on a plurality of devices within a project, the project relating to plurality of control units.

20. (previously presented) An industrial controller according to claim 16, wherein the functionality of the technology objects is distributed among control units in equidistant communication with one another in real time with clock synchronization.

21. (previously presented) An industrial controller according to claim 16, wherein the technology object types permit technological scaling of the functionality of the controller.

22. (previously presented) An industrial controller according to claim 16, wherein technology objects are interleaved to form container objects.

23. (previously presented) An industrial controller according to claim 16, further adapted to provide a plurality of views of the technology objects to a user.

24. (previously presented) An industrial controller according to claim 16, further adapted for feedback-free programming of a technology object with respect to the other technology objects and the control means.

25. (previously presented) An industrial controller according to claim 16, wherein technology objects are represented in the engineering system by graphical elements.

26. (currently amended) An industrial controller according to claim 16, wherein the technology objects have types and the ~~technology~~ technology object types are clustered into one or more technology packages.

27. (currently amended) A method of programming an industrial control system comprising a plurality of devices, the ~~controller~~ control system being technology neutral and

programmed for one or more projects and comprising a plurality of technology objects, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) ~~providing a technology neutral control system;~~
- b) a) interleaving of the technology objects to form a set of complex technology objects;
- e) b) distributing a plurality of the technology objects on a plurality of the control system devices for a first project; and
- d) c) reusing at least one of the complex technology objects in a second project; wherein at least one technology object of the plurality of technology objects comprises a technological functionality independent of the plurality of devices of the industrial control system and a device functionality dependent on at least one of the plurality of devices, the technological functionality also being independent of the device functionality;
at least one command that in part characterizes the at least one technology object and determines the behavior of the at least one technology object, and
a capability to execute commands that control the plurality of devices.

28. (previously presented) A method according to claim 27, further comprising communications channels between at least two of the technology objects, wherein attributes of the technology objects are taken into account in generating the communication channels.

29. (currently amended) A method of programming an industrial control system comprising a plurality of devices, the ~~controller~~ control system being technology neutral and programmed for one or more projects and comprising a plurality of technology objects, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) ~~providing a technology neutral control system;~~
- b) a) instantiating the technology objects;
- e) b) interleaving the technology objects to form a set of complex technology objects for a first project;
- d) c) distributing the technology objects on a plurality of the devices;

- e) d) generating communication channels between the technology objects; and
- f) e) reusing at least one of the complex technology objects in a second project;
wherein at least one technology object of the plurality of technology objects comprises
a technological functionality independent of the plurality of devices of the
industrial control system and a device functionality dependent on at least one of the
plurality of devices, the technological functionality also being independent of the device
functionality;
at least one command that in part characterizes the at least one technology object
and determines the behavior of the at least one technology object; and
a capability to execute commands that control the plurality of devices.

30. (currently amended) A method for programming an industrial controller for a technical process, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) selecting a plurality of technology objects relevant to a desired application;
- b) interleaving the selected technology objects to form technology objects having complex functionality; and
- c) distributing the interleaved technology objects onto a plurality of devices;
wherein at least one technology object of the plurality of technology objects comprises
a technological functionality independent of the plurality of devices and a device
functionality dependent on at least one of the plurality of devices, the technological
functionality also being independent of the device functionality;
at least one command that in part characterizes the at least one technology object
and determines the behavior of the at least one technology object, and
a capability to execute commands that control the plurality of devices.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein interleaved technology objects may be re-used in a subsequent application of the method.

32. (currently amended) A system for programming an industrial controller, comprising:
- a) an industrial control system;

- b) means for selecting a plurality of technology objects relevant to a desired application;
- c) means for interleaving the selected technology objects to form technology objects having complex functionality; and
- d) means for distributing the interleaved technology objects onto a plurality of devices;

wherein at least one technology object of the plurality of technology objects comprises
a technological functionality independent of the plurality of devices and a device
functionality dependent on at least one of the plurality of devices, the technological
functionality being independent of the device functionality;
at least one command that in part characterizes the at least one technology object
and determines the behavior of the at least one technology object; and
a capability to execute commands that control the plurality of devices.